

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 695

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UN, IR

SUBJ: FURTHER RUCKUS AT ASIAN GAMES

REF: TEHRAN 7529

SUMMARY: OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL ASIAN GAMES FURTHER MARRED BY ADDITIONAL REFUSALS TO COMPETE AGAINST ISRAELI TEAMS AND BY FIGHTS AND ARGUMENTS OVER DISQUALIFICATIONS. MANY OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE INVOLVED THE NORTH KOREANS. END SUMMARY.

1. IMAGE OF WELL-RUN, SPORTSMANLIKE ASIAN GAMES BEING TARNISHED BY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED REFUSALS TO PLAY ISRAELIS. LATEST TEAMS TO REFUSE WERE NORTH KOREAN FENCERS AND SOCCER PLAYERS WHO JOINED PAKISTAN, CHINA, BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND IRAQ IN DEFAULTING TO ISRAEL. IN ALL CASES WITHDRAWING TEAMS WERE DISQUALIFIED FROM FURTHER COMPETITION DESPITE LOUD AND CONTENTIOUS NORTH KOREAN PROTESTS. IRANINS HAVE NOT REFUSED TO MEET ISRAELIS BUT GENERAL MOOD PERHAPS INDICATED BY JEERS WHICH GREETED ISRAELI FEMALE GOLD MEDALIST IN HIGH JUMP.

2. SERIOUS BRAWL BROKE OUT BETWEEN IRAQI AND MALAYSIAN SOCCER

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TEAMS WHEN NORTH KOREAN REFEREE, WHO ENDED MATCH WITH SCOREBOARD

CLOCK SHOWING ONE MINUTE TO GO, WAS ATTACKED BY IRAQI TEAM.
MALAYSIANS INTERVENED AND SIX TRUCKLOADS OF POLICE WERE REQUIRED
TO RESTORE ORDER.

3. ANOTHER MINOR RIOT TOOK PLACE SEPT 9 IN BOXING ARENA WHEN NORTH
KOREANS OFFERED VIOLENT OBJECTION TO DECISION FAVORING IRANIAN
BOXER OVER ONE OF THEIR OWN. IN ADDITIONAL INCIDENT NORTH KOREAN
TRIPLE GOLD MEDALIST WEIGHTLIFTER STRIPPED OF HIS AWARDS (WHICH
WENT TO IRANIAN RUNNER UP) WHEN DOPE TESTS PROVED POSITIVE.
JAPANESE LIFTER INVOLVED IN SIMILAR DISQUALIFICATION AND BOTH
TEAMS HAVE REFUSED TO RETURN MEDALS AMIDST ACCUSATIONS OF BIAS
AND IRREGULARITIES IN HANDLING OF URINE SAMPLES TAKEN TO TEST FOR
STIMULANTS.

4. IRANIAN PRESS HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED NORTH KOREAN BEHAVIOR.
ONE ARTICLE ON SUBJECT WAS TITLED QTE WHENEVER THERE'S TROUBLE
THERE'S A NORTH KOREAN UNQTE. USUN MAY WISH TO DRAW ON RECORD OF
NORTH KOREAN ANTICS FOR BACKGROUND CONVERSATIONS DURING DEBATE ON
KOREAN QUESTION.

5. DO YOU WANT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR IS THIS TYPE OF LOCAL
COLOR USELESS?
HELMS

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